

REMARKS

I. General Remarks

Claims 31, 50, 54, 55, 59, and 76 have been amended herein.

II. Amendments to the Specification

The “Reference to Related Application” section has been updated as requested by the Examiner. Three other paragraphs of the Specification have been amended to correct typographical errors. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.\

III. Claim Objections

So as to address missing claim 37, claim 37 is indicated in the claim listing as a cancelled claim. All other claims are consistent with the previous claim numbering used throughout prosecution.

IV. Remarks Regarding the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claims 31-33, 39-43, 45-50, 53, 54, 59-61, 67, and 76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,143,193 issued to Geraci (hereinafter “Geraci”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on the basis of the amended claims.

To form a basis for a § 102 prior art rejection, a prior art reference must disclose each and every element as set forth in the claim. *See* MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE § 2131 (2004). Applicant respectfully submits that Geraci fails to teach each and every element as set forth in amended independent claims 31, 50, 54, 55, 59, and 76.

Geraci teaches an automated library terminal that vends VHS and Beta format videotape cassettes. Geraci, however, fails to teach several elements recited in Applicant’s claims as set forth herein.

As to amended independent claim 31, Geraci fails to teach the element “wherein each trackable key is attached to a trackable RFID tag.”

As to amended independent claim 50, Geraci fails to teach the element “a wireless communications link between said local controller and said central computer.”

As to amended independent claim 54, Geraci fails to teach the element “a controller system coupled to the Internet” and wherein the “control system [is] accessed remotely via the Internet.”

As to amended independent claim 55, Geraci fails to teach the element “a storage unit for receiving a plurality of trackable keys” and “a plurality of detached, trackable keys.” Additionally, Geraci fails to disclose the object tracking and control system being remotely accessible via the Internet as recited in amended claim 55.

As to amended independent method claim 59, Geraci fails to teach the steps “authenticating a user before checking-out a particular trackable object,” “checking-out the particular trackable object to the user,” “authenticating the user before checking-in the particular trackable object,” and “checking-in the particular trackable object from the user.”

As to amended independent claim 76, Geraci fails to teach the element “wherein each security box has an orientation feature so as to ensure that the security box is inserted into the storage unit in a proper orientation.”

Thus, because Geraci fails to teach each and every element of Applicant’s recited claims, Geraci fails to anticipate Applicant’s claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection to independent claims 31, 50, 54, 55, 59, and 76, and correspondingly as to dependent claims 32-33, 39-43, 45-49, 53, 60-61, and 67.

V. Remarks Regarding the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 34-36, 38, 44, 51, 52, 55-58, 62-66, and 68-75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Geraci in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,788,997 issued to Frederick (hereinafter “Frederick”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on the basis of the amended claims.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. M.P.E.P. § 2143. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are patentable over the prior art, because they include elements not disclosed in the prior art.

Frederick is directed to dispensing medical items for administration to patients. As set forth below, Frederick fails to supply the elements missing from Geraci.

In particular, as to amended independent claim 31, the cited prior art fails to teach the element “wherein each trackable key is attached to a trackable RFID tag.”

As to amended independent claim 50, the cited prior art fails to teach the element “a wireless communications link between said local controller and said central computer.”

As to amended independent claim 54, the cited prior art fails to teach the element “a controller system coupled to the Internet” and wherein the “control system [is] accessed remotely via the Internet.”

As to amended independent claim 55, the cited prior art fails to teach the element “a storage unit for receiving a plurality of trackable keys” and “a plurality of detached, trackable keys.” Additionally, the cited prior art fails to disclose the object tracking and control system being remotely accessible via the Internet as recited in amended claim 55.

As to amended independent method claim 59, the cited prior art fails to teach the steps “authenticating a user before checking-out a particular trackable object,” “checking-out the particular trackable object to the user,” “authenticating the user before checking-in the particular trackable object,” and “checking-in the particular trackable object from the user.”

As to amended independent claim 76, the cited prior art fails to teach the element “wherein each security box has an orientation feature so as to ensure that the security box is inserted into the storage unit in a proper orientation.”

VI. No Waiver

All of Applicants’ arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicants have merely discussed example distinctions from the prior art references. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicants reserve the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not responding to additional statements made by Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to Examiner’s additional statements, including statements referring to any motivation to combine references. The example distinctions discussed by Applicants are sufficient to overcome the anticipation and obviousness rejections.

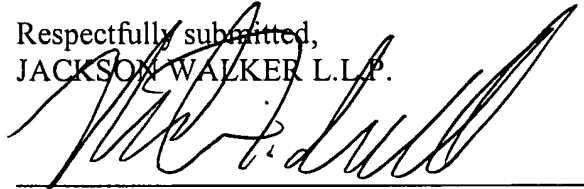
CONCLUSION

Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 10-0096 for any deficiency of fees.

The Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned for a teleconference to resolve any outstanding issues, as this Response is believed to put the case in condition for allowance.

At this time and in view of Applicants' amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

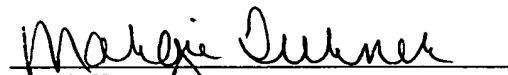


Mark A. Tidwell
Reg. No. 37,456
112 E. Pecan Street, Suite 2400
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1521
Phone: (713) 752-4578
Fax: (713) 752-4221
Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

Date: October 23, 2006


Margie Turner